

## THE TREASURER'S PAGE, No. 4

HAVING shown in the three previous issues of the REVIEW :

1. The growth in the Society's income and expenditure from 1924 to 1935 inclusive ;
2. The financial position of the Society and the financial reasons for the urgency for more funds ;
3. The eugenic objectives on which we are spending money out of capital, and for which more funds are needed ;

I propose in this issue to discuss the support given to the Society by its Fellows and Members as shown by its subscription and donation income, and to compare this with the support, also in the form of donations and subscriptions, given by their members to other societies engaged in work of no greater urgency and importance.

The facts in the case of our *Society* are these :

Year	Number of Fellows and Members	Total Subscription and Donation Income
Ended Dec. 31st, 1936	659	£528 12s. 3d.

which equals a total annual contribution of 16s. 0½d. per eugenics enthusiast! Compare this with the following table :

FIGURES OF AVERAGE SUPPORT PER PERSON  
IN THE CASE OF OTHER SOCIETIES WITH  
GENERALLY COMPARABLE ORGANISATIONS

	Total Membership (All Categories)	Total of Subscriptions and Donations per Annum			Average Amount per person		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
A. Society	131	287	11	11	2	3	10¾
B. „	185	407	4	4	2	4	0½
C. „	261	458	11	7	1	15	1½
D. „	167	795	0	0	4	15	2½
E. „	372	579	8	6	1	11	1¾
F. „	245	1,097	2	6	4	9	6½

I think you will agree with me that the comparison reveals a shocking state of affairs and one of which we have reason to be thoroughly ashamed. But there are mitigating circumstances which should in fairness be set out :

1. I have no doubt that if the *Society's* capital reserves were less, the subscription and donation income would be greater ;

2. Support which in other circumstances would go direct to the *Society* now goes to some of its work and objectives through other channels ;
3. The *Society* is continually undermining its own income support by its practice of creating co-operative bodies with other societies to develop or achieve special objectives ;
4. This is a rather curious point. When the question was raised at a Council meeting some months ago, I found to my great astonishment that suggestions for increasing the subscription income and for giving publicity to appeals to this end were not entirely approved. The objection was based on the ground that, the *Society* being a scientific body, members liked to know exactly what their subscription was and also to know that all Fellows and all Members paid the same subscriptions respectively.

There is much to be said for this viewpoint so long as *the progress of eugenics is not hindered*. The difficulty is, however, that the *Eugenics Society*, though in fact a scientific body, is something more than that ; it is also a society that can only develop towards its objectives by engaging in propaganda. It must educate and carry the people with it if it is to achieve its objectives.

There are, of course, ways of getting round the difficulty, such for example as leaving the subscriptions for Fellows and Members unaltered but, in addition, establishing special subscriptions to research and propaganda funds. Any other suggestions for dealing with the matter and increasing the subscription income of the *Society* would be most welcome, and I would invite any reader of this page who has helpful ideas to send them to the General Secretary or to me.

The whole problem will without doubt have to be tackled by the Council, unless the legacies left to the *Society*, or special donations made by Fellows and Members during their lifetime should prove to be dependable sources of supply.